

Appl. No. 10/517,321
Amendment dated: July 6, 2006
Reply to OA of: February 6, 2006

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Fig. 8, the connecting station 100 is comprised of a connecting rack or panel 112 having a plurality of connecting receptors or sockets 118 for docking a corresponding number of cells 10. Each socket 118 may be shaped as a depression in the panel front and may have a dent 120119 to mate with an indent 18 of the cell 10 to prevent improper orientation on insertion of cell 10 in socket 118.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Returning to Fig. 1a, the flowing unit 70 is composed of a fluid distributing system including fine caliber tubing and valves having small dead volumes to handle the usually small volumes of test solution 83 that are obtained, for example by condensation of an evaporated volume of air that may contain the analyte to be detected by the system of the invention. Example of tubing is standard HPLC PEEK (polyetheretherketone) or stainless steel tubing having an inner diameter of 0.25 mm to achieve acceptable sample dispersion and yet not too large pressure loss in the system.

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9(canceled).

10(currently amended). A multiple piezoelectric crystal microbalance device comprising a connecting station (100,101) for receiving and individually operating an array of piezoelectric crystal microbalances comprising:

a connecting panel (112; 113) having an array of cell connecting receptors (118), each cell connecting receptor comprising a receptor connector portion (120) for automatic mating operative engagement with a cell connector portion (24) of each a piezoelectric crystal microbalance flow-through cell (10), upon plugging said flow-through cell (10) into the connecting station (100,101), wherein

each the receptor connector portion (120) comprises

a pair of electric connecting ports (126, 128) for communication with a power and measurement means (130) for oscillating a piezoelectric crystal (50) carrying two electrodes (56,62) in a cell compartment (34) of one operatively engaged flow-through cell (10) and for measuring oscillating characteristics of the piezoelectric crystal (50); and comprises

a pair of fluid connecting ports (122, 124) for communication with flowing means (70) for uninterrupted flowing of a solution (75) and a test solution aliquot (83) to, and through, the cell compartment (34).

11(original). The multiple piezoelectric crystal microbalance device according to claim 10, wherein the individually operated piezoelectric crystal microbalances are electrostatically and electromagnetically shielded from each other.

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12(currently amended). The multiple piezoelectric crystal microbalance device according to claim 11, wherein the connecting station (100) comprises connection means (112) for[[,]] serial interconnection of the flowing of the solution (75) and test solution aliquot (83) to and through the cell compartment (34) of the individual flow-through cells (10).

13(currently amended). The multiple piezoelectric crystal microbalance device according to claim 11, wherein the connecting station (101) comprises connection means (113) for[[,]] parallel connection of the flowing of the solution (75) and test solution aliquot (83) to and through the cell compartment (34) of the individual flow-through cells (10).

14(original). The multiple piezoelectric crystal microbalance device according to claim 11, further comprising grounding means (108) for electrical grounding of the flow solution (75) and the test solution aliquot (83) to the cell compartment (34) of each of the flow-through cells (10).

Claims 15-34(canceled).